

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030755

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CD

SUBJECT:FRENCH CONCERN ABOUT CHAD MILITARY SITUATION

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE, ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS
TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT SUNDAY EVENING, FEB. 5, TO CONVEY
FRENCH CONCERN REGARDING MILITARY SITUATION IN CHAD, TO
SUMMARIZE FRENCH ACTIONS TO DATE, AND TO REQUEST U.S. ASSI-
STANCE BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND MATERIAL FOR CHADIAN GOVERNMENT.
IN PARTICULAR FRANCE HOPES U.S. WILL SUPPORT "NEGOTIATED
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT" BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA.

2. DE LABOULAYE SAID THE "LINE" ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERN-
MENT OF CHAD AROUND THE TIBESTI MOUNTAINS IN THE NORTHWEST
IN JULY HAD BEEN BREACHED AND THAT REBEL FORCES HAD ENTERED
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FAYA AND HAD BEGUN AN ATTACK ON FADA. CHAD PRESIDENT
MALLOUM HAS REQUESTED FRENCH HELP. FRANCE HAS SENT SOME
EQUIPMENT BY AIR, SOME ADVISORS AND A MISSION HEADED BY A
COLONEL (SIC). FRANCE HAD DECLINED TO PROVIDE "FIRE SUP-
PORT". FRANCE WAS ALSO ACTIVELY SUPPORTING A DIPLOMATIC SO-
LUTION BEGINNING AT THE NIAMEY MEETING OF THE CHADIAN AND

LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH DE LABOULAYE SAID WOULD BEGIN FEBRUARY 6. HE SAID MALLOUM WAS AGAIN APPEALING TO THE U.S. FOR SUPPORT.

3. AF/W DIRECTOR CALLED DE LABOULAYE AND SUMMARIZED U.S. EFFORTS TO ASSIST CHAD SINCE THE VISIT OF VICE-PRESIDENT DJIME IN JULY. WE NOTED POSSIBILITY OF CHADIAN APPEAL TO IRAN FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUGGESTED FRENCH MIGHT SUPPORT THIS REQUEST. WE AGREED TO SUPPORT, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, NIGERIAN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN AND LIBYA AND CHAD.

4. DE LABOULAYE SAID HE HAD JUST SEEN WIRE SERVICE REPORT THAT HISSEN HABRE IN KHARTOUM HAD ANNOUNCED HIS RECONCILIATION WITH THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT AND HAD APPEALED TO OTHER REBELS TO RECONCILE THEMSELVES WITH THAT GOVERNMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. FOR PARIS AND NDJEMENA: WOULD APPRECIATE SITREP. CAN YOU CONFIRM FADA ALSO UNDER ATTACK?

B. FOR TEHRAN AND PARIS: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INDICATION FRENCH WILL SUPPORT CHADIAN APPEAL TO IRAN.

C. FOR NIAMEY: CONVEY TO NIGER GOVERNMENT STRONG U.S. SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO ARRANGE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA. VANCE

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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